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PRESS RELEASE

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DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 10/16/2001
NATURE OF CALL: CONVICTION OF BROTHERS OF SAINT MATTHEW
LOCATION OF CALL: SACRAMENTO / WEIMAR
RELEASED BY: SERGEANT JOHN ADDOMS

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Yesterday, October 16, 2001, a jury returned guilty verdicts on fraud and conspiracy charges in U.S. District Court in Sacramento on three men who went by the title of *The Brothers of Saint Matthew*.

The convictions bring to a close the complex investigation and prosecution that began in November of 1998 when a citizen reported suspicions regarding "The Brothers of St. Matthew," a group of men running an unlicensed care facility in the Weimar and Applegate areas. The investigation was initiated when deputies received a report that an elderly man named George Pink was put in their care and within hours had changed his Will to leave his estate to *The Brothers* and then died of natural causes the following day. The investigation ultimately concluded that the suspects had defrauded several elderly victims of about \$600,000. The U.S. Attorney agreed to prosecute the case for the fraud and conspiracy.

On charges of Mail Fraud, Money Laundering, and Conspiracy, the jury returned 56 guilty verdicts against Raymond Henry Neeley, a 70-year-old man, and 38 guilty verdicts against Frank Nunes Gill, 55. The third man convicted of 35 counts was Dalbert Denny Shaw, 34.

The investigation took over a year and hundreds of investigation hours; the Sheriff's Department is very pleased with the verdicts. The lead investigator, Detective Corie Quillinan, stated, "The prosecution would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of several members of the community, the Sacramento Catholic Diocese, the Department of Social Services, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Attorneys."

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